

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 184482 TOSEC 080138
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S E C R E T STATE 184482 TOSEC 080138

EXDIS/FOR THE SECRETARY AND UNDERSECRETARY HABIB ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 5 CABLE HIGHLIGHTS

FOLLOWING ARE CABLE HIGHLIGHTS FOR AUGUST 5, 1977

1. MENGISTU-TIENKEN MEETING

MENGISTU SAID HE WAS "DISAPPOINTED AND SURPRISED" THAT THE US HAD DECIDED TO PROVIDE ARMS AND MORAL SUPPORT TO SOMALIA. HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD REASSESS OUR POLICY ON THE HORN AND AVERRED THAT HE WOULD SOON APPOINT AN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON IN THE INTEREST OF IMPROVING RELATIONS. (ADDIS ABABA 4752, SECRET)

2. ETHIOPIA'S ROYAL REFUGEES

A SWEDISH NEWSPAPER REPORTED TODAY THAT TEN MEMBERS OF ETHIOPIA'S ROYAL FAMILY HAD ESCAPED FROM HOUSE ARREST IN ADDIS ABABA AND SURFACED IN SWEDEN. NO MENTION WAS MADE, SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 184482 TOSEC 080138

HOWEVER, OF THE MISSIONARY CONNECTION, PLANS FOR ONWARD TRAVEL, OR ANY POSSIBILITY OF POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS. (STOCKHOLM 3244, CONF)

3. CHAD'S SEARCH FOR ARMS

EGYPT HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND SERVE AS A

THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFER POINT FOR US ARMS. FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE INTENDS TO SEEK SIMILAR COMMITMENTS IN PERSONAL VISITS TO JIDDA, AMMAN, AND TEHRAN. (NDJAMENA 2678, CONF)

4. CANADIAN PIPELINE DECISION

CABINET SUPPORT FOR THE ALCAN ROUTE HAS YET TO JELL, WITH THE MACKENZIE HARDLINERS INSISTING ON MAXIMUM BENEFITS FOR CANADA BEFORE SWITCHING OVER. TRUDEAU MAY TRY TO BREAK THE IMPASSE BY REQUESTING PRESIDENT CARTER'S COOPERATION IN DEVISING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ROUTE. (OTTAWA 7082, SECRET/EXDIS)

5. BERLIN TRIAL PROVOKES POLITICAL WRANGLING

EMBASSY BONN IS CONCERNED THAT THE SOVIET PROTESTS OVER FRG PLANS TO PROSECUTE THE LORENZ-KIDNAPPING CASE IN WEST BERLIN MAY LEAD TO A CONFRONTATION AMONG THE FRG AND THE ALLIES, WITH NO TWO PARTIES ENTIRELY IN ACCORD. DESPITE APPARENT FRENCH MISGIVINGS, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE ALLIES NOW HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO INSIST THE TRIAL HAS NO BEARING ON THE QUADRAPARTITE AGREEMENT, AND TO BACK THE FRG'S RIGHT TO HOLD IT IN BERLIN. (BONN 12843, CONF/EXDIS) CHRISTOPHER

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